SUBJECT NO. 42.

Sinking of wells under Village Improvement Scheme.

Mr. Venkataramiah, Nagamangala taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In dry taluks like Nagamangala not less than Rs. 300 are required to sink a well. The rules under the Village Improvement Scheme require that half this amount should be paid by the villagers who will be benefited by the well. But, in many instances, the villagers are unable either to contribute half the cost or do half the work; in such instances the Government may take up and finish the work and recover the raiyats' share of the cost by easy instalments as a revenue demand and thus accelerate the progress in the programme of well construction.

Reply of Government.—The existing provisions seem adequate.

SUBJECT NO. 43.

Village improvement by compulsory labour.

(1) Mr. Hutchaveere Gowda, Gubbi taluk;

(2) Messrs. Seenappa, Hoskote taluk, Gundu Rao, D. Srikanta Rao and Gurunanja Wodeyar, Devanhalli taluk, and Subba Setti, Devanhalli Municipality, and G. Ramaswamiengar, Hassan taluk;

(3) Messrs. Halappa, Nadig Raghavendrappa, Giriyappa and Gurulingappa, Honnali taluk, and Venkatagiriyappa, Krishnappa, and Adiveppa, Sagar taluk;

(4) Messrs. Addi Nanjunda Setti, Chamrajnagar Municipality and Venkatasamiah, Chamrajnagar taluk; and

(5) Mr. Linge Gowda, Mysore taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Suitable rules may be framed to make the villagers alive to their responsibilities in the matter of village improvement and share in the work ungrudgingly.

(2) The power to levy fines from unwilling villagers in lieu of labour under the Village Improvement Scheme may be given either to the Amildar or the Village Improvement Committee.

(3) The villagers may be insisted upon to devote half a day in a week for the improvement of their villages and the absentees may be made liable to pay one anna or two for their negligence.

(4) The Village Progress Committees constituted under the auspices of the Mysore Economic Conference are really calculated to promote the progress of the people.

The rules state that the villagers should be encouraged to work half a day in every week or to pay one or two annas when they cannot do so. But the above rules are not precise as to what should be done if the villagers refuse to work or to pay the money. Those who are willing to work are influenced by those who do not work. Those who do not work may therefore be compelled to pay cash in lieu of work to be done by them. By this arrangement, real progress can be achieved by the Village Committees.

(5) Village Improvement Committees have been formed in almost every village in the State. Villagers will have to work half a day in every week for carrying out the object of the Committee, *viz.*, village sanitation, formation of inter-village roads, establishment of elementary schools and water-supply, etc. Owing to the default of some of the villagers this object will be frustrated. So, a list of such persons who fail to work half a day in every week may be ordered to be prepared by the patel and the shanbhog and with the approval of the Committee the same may be sent to the Amildar, who may be empowered to

recover at the rate of two annas per week from each of such persons in view to the village improvement work being carried out.

The point chiefly brought forward was the difficulty experienced in making the villagers devote half a day in a week to labour for the improvement of their villages; and some of the members, the majority of whom were patels and shanbhogs, suggested the levy of a cess to enforce the attendance of absentees.

To remedy this defect a rough preliminary scheme was placed before the members. The following suggestions were made:—

(i) Lists should be prepared by the Village Committee in each village of all families who would be liable to take part in the weekly labour.

(ii) Each family should be bound to send any one member or some other person to work for half a day each week but where the number of males is large, the family should be liable to send more than one but not exceeding three in any one case.

(iii) Whenever any person made default in attending to this work, a cess varying from 6 pies to 2 annas according to the discretion of the Village Committee may be levied from the absentee. The amounts collected as cess may be spent by the Village Committee.

(iv) Exemptions may be made on account of sex or infirmity or age.

(v) The power to levy the cess should be given only to Committees in villages in which not less than three-fourths of the adult males in the village submit an application asking for the grant of such a power.

The principal speakers who urged the introduction of legislation were *Messrs. Hutchveere Gowda* of Gubbi, *Halappa* of Honnali and *Linge Gowda* of Mysore.

Those who spoke against any legislation were *Messrs. Rangaswami, Raghavachar, Shankaranarain Rao, Karnick Krishna Murthi Rao* and others.

The chief reasons urged in support of legislation were:—

(1) Influential persons were evading the obligation.

(2) The example of one or two recalcitrant persons would have a bad effect.

(3) Though some work had been done owing to the enthusiasm felt for the scheme in the beginning, it would be difficult to show progress subsequently as the people were inclined to shrink from the obligation.

The arguments urged against the measure were:—

(1) It would be dangerous to give Village Committees power to levy penalties.

(2) The scheme was meant for the benefit of the villages and should therefore rest on a voluntary basis and as the people began more and more to realise the advantages from the scheme there would be less difficulty in inducing the people to submit themselves to such regulation.

To know the sense of the assembly the President put to vote the question whether a Regulation might be enacted giving the power to levy cess when three-fourths of the adult males in a village consented to it.

Ninety-five members voted for the measure and seventy-seven against it.

Reply of Government.—As the opinion of a large body is against the measure, no action will be taken by Government regarding the introduction of a Regulation for the present.

SUBJECT No. 44.

Sanitary Inspectors and the Village Improvement Scheme.

Messrs. Krishnamurtiachar, Mulbagal taluk, and Gurumurtisetti, Mulbagal Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—As works to be done under the Village Improvement Scheme are more or less of a sanitary nature, they may be entrusted to the Sanitary Inspectors.

Reply of Government.—Existing rules are sufficient.

SUBJECT No. 45.

Revival of para 29 of Rule XX of the old Revenue Rules of 1890.

Mr. B. Sreenivasa Iyengar, Anekal taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Para 29 of Rule XX of the old Revenue Rules of 1890 (*viz.*, when the possession of a land has once been given, it should not be disturbed without the sanction of Government) may be revived.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 46.

Retention of the revenue and the civil court records in the court adjudicating a claim or passing an order, until the lapse of the time allowed for appeal.

Messrs. B. Srinivasa Iyengar, Anekal taluk, Adinaraniah, Chandrasekharaiya, Devasettappa, Dodballapur taluk, and Gurusambhulingappa, Dodballapur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The records of the cases in revenue and civil courts may be ordered to be retained in the courts passing an order or adjudicating a claim till the time allowed for the presentation of an appeal is over.

Mr. G. Channakeshavaiya of Chitaldrug spoke advocating the proposal.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 47.

Rights of *Anubhavadars*.

Mr. Subba Rão, Kolar District Board.

Summary of discussion.—*Anubhavadars* are the persons really entitled to pay *kandayam* to Government though the *khate* may not be in their names. But, at present, if the khatedar pays *kandayam* though the *khate* land is not in his enjoyment the same will be received and given credit to in the accounts. Orders may be passed directing the receipt of *kandayam* from the *anubhavadars* only in preference to the nominal *khatedars*.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao opposed the proposal.

Reply of Government.—Not possible.

SUBJECT No. 48.

Conversion of Amrut Mahal kavals into large landed estates.

Mr. K. Ramandjiengar, Gubbi taluk

Summary of discussion.—Large landed estates can be successfully maintained by enterprising people only in places where there is an abundant supply of water. There are many Amrut Mahal kavals with large tanks in them,